PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

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June 9, 1980

Mr. R. D. Lynn
General Manager
Anaconda Company
P. O. Box 638
Grants, New Mexico 87038

Re: Anaconda Reclamation Plan

Dear Mr. Lynn:

This letter represents the desires of the Pueblo of Laguna with respect to technical areas that should be addressed in the Anaconda Reclamation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan). Generally, it is our desire that disturbed areas should be reclaimed to the extent that they do not contribute to environmental deterioration in the long term. The previous reclamation plan commonly referred to as the "Red Book" contained many generalities and assumptions which were not supported by adequate data and technical analysis. In any event, the new plan should not follow the format of the March, 1979 Plan. Both parties should recognize that once the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Regulations are implemented, new issues may arise which will require discussion and modification of the Plan. Of course, a significant issue to the Pueblo is the socio-economic impact of the mine slow-down and phase-out on our people. With the above points in mind, we provide you with our input.

The following is a comprehensive list of our requirements:

A. Anaconda's General Philosophy of Reclamation with respect to:

1. Post Mining Land Use - Grazing and/or Agriculture.
2. Elimination of Hazards.
3. Aesthetics.
4. Site Stability - Perpetual Care.
5. Use of Laguna Personnel During Reclamation - Adherence to Previous Hiring Policy.
6. Timetable.
7. Costs.
8. (RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT) - Hazardous Waste Requirements.

B. SURFACE STRUCTURES

1. Railroad Spur:

a. Radionuclei Hazards in Ballast, Soils, and Ties.

b. Proposed Disposition of Track, Ties, and Soil.

c. Possible Post Mining Uses If Left Intact.

2. Vent Holes:

a. Disposition of Fence, Pad, Pipe, Butane Tanks, Powerlines, etc.

b. Method of Plugging Holes

c. Method of Reclamation of Site and Access Roads.

3. Exploration Holes:

a. Status of Plugging Program.

b. Reclamation and Revegetation Measures.

4. Buildings and Houses:

a. Location.

b. Description - Services Available, Size, etc.

c. Proposed Disposition.

d. Possible Post-Mining Uses.

e. Monitoring of rehabilitated houses for radioactivity.

f. Paguate home damage.

5. Roads:

a. Location (Reroute SR 279)

b. Description.

c. Radionuclei Hazards of Adjacent Soils.

d. Disposition

6. Parking Areas:

a. Location.

b. Description - Size, Surface Cover, etc.

c. Possible Radionuclei Hazards.

d. Disposition.

7. Sewage Lagoons:

a. Location - Proximity to Buildings.

b. Post-Mining Usefulness.

c. Disposition.

8. Mining Equipment:

a. Disposition.

9. Powerlines:

a. Location.

b. Post-Mining Usefulness.

c. Disposition.

10. Water Wells:

a. Location.

b. Quantity of Production.

c. Quality.

d. Disposition.

e. Drilling additional wells for recreation and Pueblo use.

11. Landing Strip:

a. Disposition.

C. WASTE PILES:

1. Description:

a. Location

b. Color.

c. Amount, Type, and Chemical Content of Top-Dressing.

2. Physical Form:

a. Berms - Locations and Size.

b. Benches - Locations and Size.

c. Slopes

d. Tops.

e. Erosion From Wind and Surface Runoff.

f. Erosion from Adjacent Streams.

g. Access for Livestock.

h. Heighth.

3. Revegetation:

a. Type of Species.

b. Density of Species and Grazing Capacity.

c. Ability to Concentrate Toxic Elements, e.g., Salanium & Radium.

d. Grazing Management Plan, e.g., fencing, capacity and control.

4. Hazards:

a. Release of Radiation (Gamma) and Radioactive (Radon) Elements into Ambient Atmosphere.

b. Natural Leaching of Radioactive Elements.

c. RCRA Compliance

d. Radiological description of the waste piles.

D. OPEN PITS:

1. Pit Bottoms:

a. Amount, type, Elevation, and Location of Backfilling.

b. Drainage.

c. Probability of Contaminated Standing Water.

d. Type and Density of Revegetation Species.

e. Livestock Access & Wildlife Access.

f. Release of Radioactive and Toxic Elements.

g. Final Pit Outline - Pit topography.

h. Natural Leaching of Ore Zone.

i. Radiological description of backfilling, i.e., Amount and Type.

2. Pit Walls:

a. Location, Height, and Stability of Remaining walls.

b. Amount, Type, and Location of Fencing.

c. Benching.

d. Location, Slope, and Stability of Highwall Sloping.

e. Procedure for Highwall Sloping.

f. Aesthetics.

g. Special Measures - Gavilan Mesa.

E. PROTORE STOCKPILES:

1. Amount and Composition:

2. Disposition - RCRA Compliance:

a. Proximity to Watertable.

b. Amount and Type of Cover.

c. Difficulty of Future Recovery.

d. Radiological Hazards of Natural Leaching.

3. Disposition of Material Lying Under Their Present Location.

a. Contamination.

F. ORE STOCKPILES:

1. Present Location

2. Timetable for Removal.

3. Disposition of Material Lying Under Their Present Location.

G. ENTRIES INTO THE SUBSURFACE:

1. Location and Method of Permanently Sealing All Adits, Shafts, and Hydraulic Mining Sites.

2. Stability of Proposed Methods.

3. Reclamation of Affected Areas.

H. AREAS UNDERLAIN BY UNDERGROUND MINING:

1. Location.

2. Probability of Subsidence.

3. Impact on Existing Structures.

4. Proposed Mitigating Measures.

5. Location and Duration of Monitoring.

6. Results, Indications and Estimates from Previous Monitoring.

I. DRAINAGES:

1. Rio Paguate and Rio Moquino:

a. Floodplain Reestablishment - Rio Paguate.

b. Chemical and Radiological Changes in Their Quality.

c. Siltation

d. Establishment of Original Channel.

e. Stabilization of Channel - All Channels.

2. Quirk Dam:

a. Amount of Siltation Caused by Mining.

b. Chemical and Radiological Content of Sediment.

c. Proposed Mitigation.

d. Core-Sampling.

3. Blocked Drainages:

a. Locations.

b. Probability of Ponding.

c. Quality of Ponded Water.

d. Proposed Mitigation.

J. MINE WATER HOLDING PONDS:

1. Location.

2. Chemical and Radiological Content of Sediment.

3. Disposition of Sediment and Remaining Water.

K. UNDISTURBED AREAS:

1. Location - Map.

L. MONITORING:

1. Describe Air, Surface Water, Subsurface Water, Soil, Waste Dump, Subsidence, Vegetation, and Quirk Sediment Monitoring Being Conducted.

2. How Long will Monitoring Be Performed?

M. REMAINING RESERVES:

1. Location and Grade.

2. General Economic Forecast for the Reserves.

3. Possible Mining Techniques - In Situ, Hydraulic, etc.

4. Other remaining information on amount of reserves under Paguate.

N. SPECIAL TOPICS:

1. Overall Radiation Levels After Reclamation.

2. Overall Groundwater Impacts.

3. Status of Groundwater Study (Anaconda is conducting).

4. Anticipated Future Study Topics.

5. Cooperative Agreements with SEAM, PHS, EPA, Water Resources Divison of USGS, et. al.

6. Artists Depiction at 2000 scale.

7. Gavilan Mesa.

8. Landscape Architect involvement.

9. Institutional Management Scheme.

10. RCRA regulations.

We look forward to Anaconda's responses to the above listed technical areas and to fruitful discussion. If there are any questions or request for clarification, please call Mr. Ron Solimon at (505) 243-7616 or 552-6654.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

Harry D. Early
Governor

RJS/HDE:ejm